

236 Although mutton is eaten to some extent,
 [262] sheep are raised primarily for wool. Sheep
 are sheared twice a year, in late fall and early
 summer. A sheep yields about 1 pound of wool
 [435] in two shearings, which sells at from \$1.00 to
 \$1.25 (all monetary values are in Mexican cur-
 rency). Black wool brings more than white
 (as it is all used locally for serape weaving).

233 Goats.—Only a few goats are raised. Nor-
 [234] mally they are herded with the sheep and are
 treated like them. In rare instances the goats
 are milked, and the milk is made into cheese.
 [438] The most important use of goats is to sell them
 [262] for food, usually outside the town, as goat meat
 is rarely eaten in Cherán. Goatskins are sold
 uncured with the hair.

231 Horses.—Although some horses are bred in
 Cherán and some care is exercised in breeding,
 it is said the animals deteriorate because of the
 cold climate. Consequently, most horses are
 imported, but they also deteriorate rapidly.
 More important than the cold, undoubtedly, is
 the fact that no one in Cherán understands the
 care of horses. They are badly fed and receive
 little protection from the weather. Stallions
 are castrated.

[492] In any case, horses are rare in Cherán and
 are little used except as riding animals, es-
 pecially by those with numerous cattle or pack
 animals. Riding and pack gear are the same
 as those of the Mestizos. Although in other
 [184] Tarascan towns horses are used in plowing,
 [241] this was denied in Cherán. A rather poor
 [435] horse costs about 70 pesos. Most horses be-
 [556] long to well-to-do men and primarily are indica-
 tors of social position. Attitudes toward own-
 ing a horse are a weak reflection of those of the
 vanishing Mexican *caballero*. Women almost
 never ride.

Horses are fed maize, oats, maize stalks, and
 [232] wheat or oat straw. Few people have any
 knowledge of treating illnesses of horses.
 [422] Ownership is indicated by branding, and horses
 [552] are given names similar to those used by
 [262] Mestizos. Horse meat is not eaten, but horse
 [291] hides are valued for tanning.

Mules.—Mules are even rarer than horses
 and have a higher value. Almost all are im-
 [492] ported. They are used mostly as pack animals,
 but occasionally they are ridden or used with
 the plow.

231 the plow. Care and practices otherwise are the same as for horses.

231 *Burros.*—"The poor man's mule" is one of the
492 more common animals in Cherán. Often kept in a shed by the house, the burro is employed to bring in firewood (when he may be ridden to the woods), to bring in the harvest, carry goods on trading trips, and perform any other service of burden carrying. Burros may be used as light draft animals in such tasks as dragging brush over wheat fields to cover the seed after sowing. Often rented, especially at harvest time, burros are frequently lent to friends, neighbors, and relatives. Although hard-worked, they are usually better cared for and less abused than among the Mestizos. They are often fed rather than pastured, and saddle sores and other signs of abuse are relatively uncommon.

[262] Burros are bred in the town. Jacks are not
[281] castrated. The flesh is never eaten and the hide is regarded as of little value.

231 *Dogs.*—Usually each household has one or perhaps two dogs, but large numbers of starved animals are rare. Ordinarily a dog is fed what the family has, and if a dog is underfed, usually the family is also. Dogs are always named, usually for "pretty things or animals" such as Butterfly, Duke, Tiger, or Rattlesnake. Others are named for their coat color or because the name is liked. No effort is made to control the breeding of dogs.

[551] Dogs are used in hunting, sheepherding, and to guard the house. In the latter capacity, the dogs of the *barrio* of Paricutin are much more aggressive than in the rest of the town. This may be because their masters are generally less friendly or may simply reflect the more rural character of the *barrio*.

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[551] Hunting dogs are used to chase deer, squirrels, rabbits, and other animals after they have been wounded. Apparently no special training is given. Sheep dogs are trained by putting them on a leash with a sheep during the day and tying them near the sheep at night. They are encouraged to bark at the right time and to attack coyotes.

Cats.—Cats are not numerous in Cherán, although they are valued fairly highly because they combat the many rats which steal stored corn. Cats seem well treated and are some-

- 231 times petted. One reason for having cats is "because they give pleasure." They are given "pretty" names or names of affection such as "Chulita and Negrita" ("Pretty Little One" and "Little Black One").

[552] Cats are fed primarily on tortillas, although they usually are given a little of whatever the family is eating. Kittens are given away to friends and relatives; they are never killed, "for there are never enough cats." Strange [754] cats may be associated with witchcraft and might be mistreated or killed, but this apparently does not happen often. Eating of cats is denied, although young fat kitten is reported to be a delicacy for really poor people in nearby Mestizo towns.

- 235 Chickens.—Many people have no chickens and no one has large flocks. They are fed, but receive little care. Fowls are sometimes eaten on special occasions, such as a baptism, when a cooked fowl may be presented to the godfather. Eggs are rarely eaten but are sold to traveling egg merchants from Mestizo towns. [262] [438] [435] An average egg will sell for 5 or 6 centavos, which will buy enough beans for a whole family to have a meal, while one egg "will not satisfy even one person."

Chickens are fed whole corn or, if there are very few chickens, *nixtamal* (masa or corn dough for tortillas). Chicks are also fed *nixtamal*. Boxes or baskets are provided for nests. The first time a hen wishes to "set," it is not permitted, but it is the second time. Eggs from other hens are never placed under a "setting" hen. Small chicks are placed under box crates to protect them from "onzas" (from descriptions, *onza* in Cherán means a small weasel-like animal).

- [136] Roosters are raised for cock fighting. However, [541] organized cock fights are held only during the fiesta of Octava.

Pigeons.—Although regarded as a domestic animal, pigeons are really wild. Ownership is not clear. As the birds are not fed, but help themselves to stored grain in the lofts of the houses, ownership presumably would be felt for the birds eating one's corn. The matter seems unimportant, as the birds are rarely eaten, although they are used in connection with the San Juan fiesta. If eaten, only adult [262] pigeons are killed.